

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 06139 141644Z
ACTION SS-25

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----- 124812 /45
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1666
INFO USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 6139

EXDIS

E.O. 11662: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, IZ
SUBJECT: IRAQ UN MISSION ACQUISITION OF FIREARMS

REF: USUN 6030

1. MORNING 13 DECEMBER AMB BENNETT RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL FROM JOSEPH REED, JR., ASSISTANT TO DAVID ROCKEFELLER AT CHASE MANHATTAN BANK. REED SAID THEY HAD HAD A VISIT FROM AL-TAYYAR OF IRAQI MISSION RE RECENT PURCHASE BY AL-TAYYAR OF MACHINE GUNS. REED EXPLAINED THAT AL-TAYYAR MAINTAINS AN ACCOUNT AT CHASE MANHATTAN OF APPROXIMATELY \$500,000 IN HIS OWN NAME. REED DID NOT KNOW WHETHER IT WAS PERSONAL ACCOUNT OF IRAQI GOVERNMENT FUNDS. IN ADDITION TO ACCOUNT, AL-TAYYAR HAS APPARENTLY HAD PERSONAL CONTACT AS GO-BETWEEN AND, ACCORDING TO REED, WAS INVOLVED WITH ARRANGEMENTS FOR DAVID ROCKEFELLER'S LAST VISIT TO BAGHDAD.

2. AL-TAYYAR PRESENTED HIMSELF AS HAVING BEEN TRICKED IN MAC-10 PURCHASE BY UNSCRUPULOUS DEALER. HE MENTIONED BENNETT'S VISIT TO AMBASSADOR AL-SHAIKHLY AND BESOUGHT BANK'S HELP IN GETTING LETTER FROM US GOVERNMENT TESTIFYING TO HIS, AL-TAYYAR'S, PROBITY AND BONAFIDES--I.E., IN GIVING AL-TAYYAR A CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH. HE INDICATED HIS RECALL TO BAGHDAD WAS IN PROSPECT. REED ASKED BENNETT'S ADVICE.

3. WITHOUT GOING INTO DETAILS, BENNETT REMARKED TO
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REED THERE WERE SERIOUS INCONSISTENCES IN AL-TAYYAR'S

STATEMENTS, AS WELL AS IN HIS BEHAVIOR. IF CHASE
MANHATTAN WANTED TO BE HELPFUL TO AL-TAYYAR, THEY
SHOULD ADVISE HIM TO COME CLEAN ALL THE WAY
WITH RESPECT TO ARMS PURCHASE AND SURROUNDING
CIRCUMSTANCES. CHASE MANHATTAN SHOULD ADVISE
HIM TO BE FULLY COOPERATIVE WITH USG INVESTIGATION.
FAILING THAT COOPERATION, AL-TAYYAR WOULD FIND
HIMSELF IN SERIOUS TROUBLE.

4. REED INDICATED SURPRISE AND ALARM OVER POSSIBLE
REMIFICATIONS OF CASE, AND SAID HE WOULD RECOMMEND
STRONG COUNSEL TO AL-TAYYAR TO GIVE COOPERATION TO
USG IN GETTING FULL FACTS AND REMEDIAL ACTION ON
CASE.
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